

Elba Wicker  
wins state "Coach  
of the Year"  
award



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for more than 125 Years!"  
Est. 1897

INSIDE

Officer  
installation held  
for Elba Masonic  
Lodge



# The Elba Clipper

Volume 127, Number 10

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 27, 2023

1 Section, 8 Pages Plus 1 Adv Insert

After more than three hours in executive session Monday night

## Employment hearing for Elba Police Chief tentatively continued until Friday, Aug. 4th

by Linda Hodge, Editor



The Elba City Council meeting turned into a mostly sit and wait session Monday night, July 24, as the council, police chief, and their respective lawyers spent over three hours in a closed [executive session] employment hearing.

Early on in the meeting a motion was made and seconded to enter into an executive session for the employment hearing. Counsel for Troy Staley, Elba police chief that currently is on paid administrative leave, interjected saying his client's preference would be to "have an open session so everyone can hear what is going on instead of a closed executive session."

Mayor Tom Maddox and the council referred to their employment counsel in the matter, attorney Robbie Hyde.

She advised there are two separate code sections with regard to executive sessions for the type proceedings taking place Monday night during the Elba City Council meeting. Specifically, Hyde said Alabama Code § 11:43:230 states that the council is authorized to go into exec-

An employment hearing, in executive session for Elba Police Chief Troy Staley began Monday night during the Elba City Council meeting, but the executive session was adjourned and continued tentatively for Aug. 4th after over three hours in the executive session. Staley was placed on paid administrative leave June 17th.

utive session a personnel hearing regarding law enforcement. Also, she said the state's open meeting act, itself, provides authorization for matters pertaining to potentially determining if someone should be terminated.

"That is up to you," Hyde said to the council regarding the request from Staley's attorney for the open session. "I have heard that Mr.

Every Thursday evening at 6 p.m., residents of downtown Elba gather in the upstairs area of the Jared and Brunson Law building for a weekly stained-glass class. They are led by Dorothy Vaughan, an experienced instructor who has been working with this medium for over 15 years.

The class has become a popular activity for the community attracting 13 frequent visitors.

"Every week we'll have from 4 to 6 people there," Vaughan explains, "most people come when they can and their work is always there for them to return to."

Benefiting from her expertise and guidance, participants attentively listen as Vaughan shares her knowledge and techniques. Members of the class have the opportunity to express their creativity through the creation of mosaics and genuine stained-glass work.

For Vaughan, stained glass has become more than just a hobby. Having grown up in Elba and returning to the community in 2002, she found calm in art expression.

According to Coffee County Jail records, Dale Knapp, age 29, of Denham Springs, La., was arrested and booked into the county jail at 6:04 p.m. last Friday. His charges included possession of a controlled substance [\$5,000 bond],

Knapp

Tuesday, Aug. 1st  
7th & 8th Grade Orientation 5:30 p.m.  
9th-12th Grade Orientation 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 2nd  
Kindergarten JumpStart 9-11 a.m.  
1st-3rd Grade Orientation 5:30 p.m.  
4th-6th Grade Orientation 6:30 p.m.



The Elba High School FCCLA group that recently participated in the FCCLA National Convention held in Denver, Colorado was recognized Monday evening, July 24, at the beginning of the Elba City Council meeting. The city leaders congratulated the students on their representation of the City of Elba and Elba City Schools while in Denver. The students brought home all gold medals from the competitions along with two 'first place in the nation' finishes. Those pictured above include (front, l to r) Elba Mayor Tom Maddox, Keelie Moseley, Taylor Day, Kayden Moseley, Payton Parks, Mary-Brooklyn O'Neal, Hillary Hudson, Adalyn O'Neal, Zalie McElvy, and Elba FCCLA advisor Christina Morgan; (back, l to r) council members Johnathan Lockett and Gappa Wise, city clerk Sally Bane, and council members Jane Brunson, Bryan Grimes and A R Williams.

During Coffee County BOE called meeting held Aug. 20th

## New band director for Zion Chapel hired

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held a called meeting Thursday, July 20, and several personnel matters were approved during the meeting in preparations for the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

The personnel matters approved were recommended by superintendent Kelly Cobb before being approved by the board.

Four teacher resignations were approved. These included: Ashley Chappell, teacher at Kinston High School; Ashley Storey, teacher at Zion Chapel School; Keith Simmons, teacher at New Brockton Elementary School; and Lynn "Gid" Zorn, teacher at New Brockton High School.

The board also approved four new teacher hires, one of which was for a new band director at Zion Chapel. Jarrett Nelson was hired to be the new band director for the Rebels for the upcoming school year.

Nelson has a degree in music education from Troy University. Previously, he has served as band director at Banks Schools and assistant band director at Pike County High School.

Additional teacher hires for the upcoming school year included Mitchell Price for Zion Chapel High School, Laura Wagner



Jarrett Nelson,  
new band director at  
Zion Chapel

for New  
Brockton  
High School,  
and Rene'  
Donaldson for  
Kinston High  
School.

The only  
other person-  
nel matter  
approved by  
the board dur-  
ing the meet-  
ing was to  
grant leave to  
Kinston teach-  
er Sara Kate  
Sumblin begin-  
ning Sept. 1 and continuing  
through Dec. 1, tentatively.

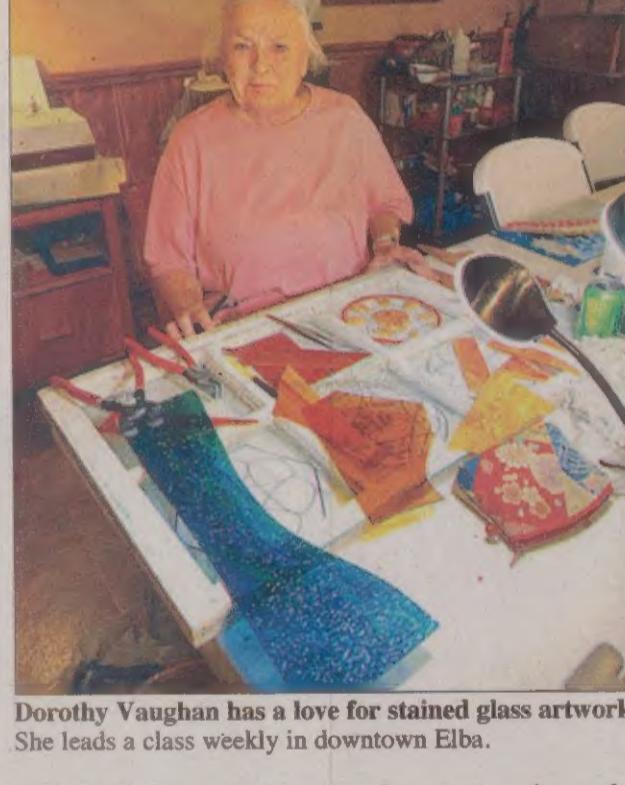
Also, during the meeting, the superintendent invited all to attend the grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony for the new New Brockton Middle School building. This is set to be held after the board's next regular meeting. The ribbon cutting is planned for 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, at the school. Light refreshments will be served following the ribbon cutting.

The next regular meeting for the Coffee County Board of Education will be Thursday, Aug. 3, at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be conducted from the auditorium of New Brockton High School.

## Artist's love for mosaics connects her to community in Elba

by Mikailie Caulder,  
Auburn University Living  
Democracy Program student

mosaics connects her to community in Elba



Dorothy Vaughan has a love for stained glass artwork. She leads a class weekly in downtown Elba.

the process."

Spending 16 hours a day for weeks, Vaughan donated the piece free of charge to Elba High. This mosaic tiger holds a special place in Vaughan's heart serving as a lasting symbol of her artistic talent and dedication. She describes it as her most rewarding piece because it is exhibited in the high school.

Vaughan's passion for her craft was evident when she described the challenges she faced when installing the mosaic into the school's floor. The installation process was not a walk in the park.

"I had to get them to take up the floor and remove the linoleum. You cannot put a mosaic of glass into a linoleum floor, it just doesn't work," Vaughan stated.

When asked about her favorite piece, Vaughan found it hard to choose between her tiger and a piece depicting large poppies.

"It's kind of a tie with the tiger," explains Vaughan. "I got one that is poppies. It's a great big 'ole piece of glass and it's got huge poppies all in it."

The poppy artwork, made from a large slab of glass, showcases Vaughan's skill in capturing the beauty of nature.

Notably, she generously donates most of her work free of charge, recognizing the value of art in enriching her community. Earlier this year, Vaughan took part in the Art Expo at the Elba Public Library. She exhibited several pieces, including a stunning mosaic flower pot that showcased her

marily creates pieces for personal enjoyment, she has also sold some of her artwork, including a recent piece to the Covenant Community Church. That piece earned her \$800 and took about three weeks to complete.

Although Vaughan primarily creates pieces for personal enjoyment, she has also sold some of her artwork, including a recent piece to the Covenant Community Church. That piece earned her \$800 and took about three weeks to complete.

Copied from a prayer cloth, Vaughan created a beautiful mosaic piece of a cross, dove, and fish. Though this is one of her few commissions, Vaughan puts every ounce of perfection into all of her work.

One of Vaughan's most significant contributions to her community is a mosaic tiger she created for Elba High School.

"I made it on behalf of the Class of '65 which I was in," explained Vaughan and became enchanted by

See ART, Page 8

## Area Happenings

The Elba Chamber of Commerce/Elba Main Street in conjunction with the Elba Historic Preservation Committee invites all to enjoy an evening with The Dothan Moonlighters in Elba. The concert will be Thursday, Aug. 10, beginning at 6 pm. in the historic Elba Theatre, located at 231 Court Ave., Elba. This is a fund raiser for an Elba Museum. Tickets are \$15 each and include hors d'oeuvres. Tickets can be purchased at LillieAnne's, My Happy Place, and Son Exposure. For more information, call the Elba Chamber of Commerce office at (334) 897-3125.

## EDITORIAL

### BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

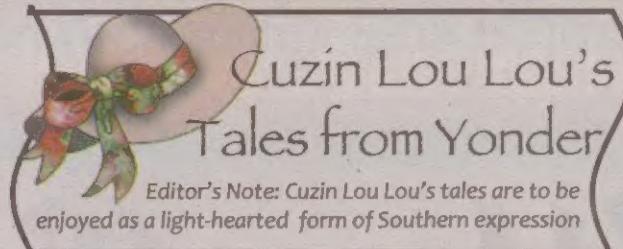
*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." — Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"When you look at Mr. Robert Kennedy Jr's tweet, there was nothing there that was factually inaccurate. Hank Aaron, real person, great American, passed away after he got the vaccine. Pointing out, "just pointing out facts," Rep Jim Jordan said when speaking before a House subcommittee last week trying to justify Kennedy's comments. That is true, but we are sure what was written was to 'prove' Kennedy's continuing opposition to the COVID-19 vaccine. A person could say he died "right after eating a meal" and be truthful but also falsely implying he died FROM eating the meal.

A whistle blower testified before another committee in Washington that the charges against Hunter Biden should have been changed to a tax felony and not a tax misdemeanor. This person may be correct we don't know the guidelines. However, the question that popped in our brain when reading about the person's opinion was, 'Would they have had the same opinion if the offender was a regular guy who carried his lunch to work in a bucket?' We have all seen cases where we felt the offender got a light (or overly heavy) sentence because of who they are – and this may be another one of those but . . . punish him for his crime and not for his family ties, even if dad is president. We can pick our friends, but God selects our families!!!

There is a new movie out that is heralded as the 'story of Robert Oppenheimer', the father of the atomic bomb. We are sure the film includes the charges that he was at least 'soft' on the Communist Party. In fact his security clearance was revoked in 1954. All that was erased from the records sometime after his death. True or false, that stemmed from his reported longtime affair with a woman who was an active member of the Communist Party in California. Anyway, there is reportedly a very graphic sex scene in the movie with Oppenheimer and some female and it has Hindi religious sayings coming from the two participants. This is of course offensive to Hindus and we frankly don't understand how such a scene relates to developing the atomic bomb . . . except the belief that "sex sells".

The battle over voter redistricting in Alabama is ongoing. The recent special session of the Alabama Legislature made some changes, but very few people think it satisfies the directive from the U. S. Supreme Court. The districts are so evenly divided now that there is only one (1) vote variation in the seven congressional districts but the question that is surely going back before the court is the balance of the black votes within the districts and still only one majority black voters. Our district (District 2) gained in percentage of black voters but is still a bit less than the majority or even "close to it".



Editor's Note: Cuzin Lou Lou's tales are to be enjoyed as a light-hearted form of Southern expression

Cuzin Lou Lou created a bit more excitement at the Yonder Gang's house than she intended one night earlier this week!

Lou Lou had gotten home late from work this night, and she was eating her re-warmed in the microwave slice of pizza and carrying on a conversation with Sister when she sat in her computer chair, which hit a nearby cabinet and knocked a large decorative tile off it.

Said tile hit Lou Lou full-force in the shoulder with the sharp edge, and the chaotic scene began. Lou

Lou screamed in pain, Sister and Papa came running to make sure Lou Lou was not bleeding anywhere, and Little Bean just went crazy over all the excitement!

Several minutes later, things got back to normal... well except for Lou Lou's now bruised and swollen shoulder, but that too will heal (eventually).

It was an evening Lou Lou hopes to not repeat again anytime soon! At least she knows the rest of the gang does actually care about her though!

Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!



The Elba Masonic Lodge #170 held its annual installation of the new officers Saturday, July 22, during a ceremony at the lodge. PGM Brother Jamie Smith was the installing officer and Brother Ross Jackson was the installing Marshal for the event. The food, fellowship and installation was enjoyed by all. Those pictured above include: (front, l to r) Treasurer Daniel Stephens, Secretary Seth Hanchey, S/D Matt Brunson Sr., S/W Mike Amison, Chaplain Michael Phelps, J/D Eddie Kelley Jr., Historian Justin Prescott, and Tiler Bert Burril; and (back) W/M Wendell Black.

### Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Tuesday, July 18, 2023, and Monday, July 24, 2023, conducted the following activity:

**Tuesday, July 18** – Suspicious person reported at Hwy 84/Hwy 87 (6:48 p.m.). Three traffic stops resulted in two verbal warnings, and one citation.

**Wednesday, July 19** – Disturbance reported at 429 Plant Ave (1:51 a.m.). Four traffic stops resulted in two verbal warnings, one arrest, and one citation.

**Thursday, July 20** – Suspicious vehicle reported at 435 Reese Ave (12:27 a.m.); Theft of services reported at 827 Washington Ave (8:39 a.m.); Traffic accident reported at 911 Farris Ave (12:39 p.m.); Suspicious vehicle reported on Hwy 84 – w/arrest (3:49 p.m.); Trespassing reported at 808 Putnam St – w/arrest (11:16 p.m.). Two traffic stops resulted in written warnings.

**Friday, July 21** – Domestic complaint reported at 100 Beaver Dam St (12:05 a.m.); Suspicious person reported at 990 Hwy 203 (5:10 a.m.); Trespassing reported at 626 Mullins Circle (11:34 a.m.); Trespassing reported at 612 Adams Ave (1:14 p.m.); Harassing communications reported at 19880 Hwy 87 (2:46 p.m.); Suspicious person reported at 702 Newton St (3:09 p.m.); Traffic accident reported at 949 Hwy 203 (4:09 p.m.); Reckless driver reported on Hwy 84 near Elba (9:02 p.m.).

**Saturday, July 22** – Domestic complaint reported at 1031 Guyton St (6:06 a.m.); Traffic accident reported at Hwy 141/Hwy 84 (1:20 p.m.); Assault reported at 1241 Farris Ave (2:01 p.m.); Reckless driver reported at 672 Herman Driggers Dr (2:25 p.m.); Suspicious person reported at Hwy 84 in area of National Security (7:58 p.m.); Traffic accident reported at Foggy Bottom Stadium (10:56 p.m.).

**Monday, July 24** – Traffic accident reported at 1315 Hickman Ave (6:03 a.m.); Fraudulent use of a credit/debit card reported at 200 Buford St (10:42 a.m.); Theft of property reported at 1316 Neil Grantham Dr (2:37 p.m.).

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### McWane Science Center provides learning program for Elba Public Library...

As part of the Summer Learning Program at the Elba Public Library, a representative from the McWane Science Center, Birmingham, Ala., visited Elba on Friday, July 21, to present a program on space and sea for youngsters. It was a fun, interactive program as several different science experiments were done for the children to see and enjoy (as shown in the photos above and to the left). The program was held at the Elba Theatre in downtown Elba.

The Chapter will be holding elections for chapter officers for the upcoming year. All members that can attend, are asked to be present.

Also, Chapter 99 maintains a help desk located

[tentatively Aug. 4th], and you are now back in regular session [for the Aug. 24th council meeting]. That [executive session] meeting is just sitting out there paused for now."

Tentatively, the time for reconvening the meeting on Aug. 4th is set for 2 p.m., but city hall officials said schedules were being checked before that was officially set as the start time.

After returning to open session of the meeting, council members heard departmental reports from interim police chief Shayne Arnett and city clerk Sally Bane. These were basic "business as normal" updates.

Also, the mayor noted that the official grand opening for Sunbelt Solomon is set for October. He said more information would be forthcoming on this opening.

**PRAY  
FOR OUR  
SCHOOLS!**

Council member Jane Brunson made a motion with a second from council member Johnathan Lockett.

The executive session/hearing began at approximately 5:45 p.m. during which time witnesses were called upon from time to time to answer questions.

At approximately 9 p.m., the council returned to open meeting, but a conclusion to the executive session/hearing had not been reached.

City attorney Bart Boothe advised the council that it would need a motion to adjourn the executive session to another date and time to allow for continuation of that meeting.

Council member Jane Brunson made a motion with a second from council member Johnathan Lockett to adjourn the executive session and reconvene tentatively on Friday, Aug. 4, with further notice coming from the city clerk on that. All voted in favor of the motion.

Following the vote, Boothe explained, "the executive session is adjourned to a specific date

at the New Brockton Town Hall. Hours of operation are 9 - 11 a.m. on Wednesday of every week. This is a free service to anyone desiring help with a VA claim.

For further information contact Charles Lobdell at 334-718-5707 or Mike Doran at 334-406-6700.

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Love and Loss, both Young and Old

No one wants to think about the loss of a loved one especially those who have lost their spouses far too soon. There is no perfect time to become a widow or widower but many associate the death of a spouse with old age. The truth is many lose their spouses before reaching old age and that loss can face different and unexpected challenges for those who find themselves without their partners by their side.

One of the biggest differences in losing a spouse young versus losing a spouse later on in life is oftentimes how to help young children cope with the loss of a parent and the potential of dating, marriage or even a blended family with children. There is no ideal time to start dating again after the loss of a spouse: take your time. For some it may be a few months, for others it may be a few years. Be honest with yourself and your children if such a topic would arise. Explain that no one will ever be able to replace your child's mother or father and your heart is full enough to love them just as much as they may love the person you start dating or any family that may be blended if things progress well and further. There are plenty of resources available to help young children and teens going through loss like books, therapeutic games and activities, journals and coloring books that can help children and young teens express their feelings surrounding loss, new people entering their lives and the uncertainty that new relationships and dynamics can bring with them.

Consider a support group or therapy for those who have also lost spouses relatively young. Finding support from others can be a vitally important part of one's grief journey: knowing you are not alone is key and the compassion and care from others can help you feel less isolated by loss. A licensed therapist who specializes in grief can help provide tangible coping mechanisms to help you through your grief journey: there is no shame in seeking professional help during a season of grief.

Every day, be kind to yourself. Take time to spend a day alone, with friends, with family or on a date: whichever helps you move through your grief journey with grace.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at hayesfh@hayesfuneralhome.net

431 East Davis Elba, Alabama 36323 (334) 897-2225

## Obituaries

Obits are updated regularly on our website: [www.elba-clipper.com](http://www.elba-clipper.com)

### MARGIE L. WOOD

Mrs. Margie L. Wood, age 76, of Coffee Springs, Ala., died Thursday, July 20, 2023, at her home.



Funeral services were held Monday, July 24, 2023, at Ino Baptist Church with Rev. Garry Winstead and Rev. Kevin Kelley officiating. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Warren Holloway Ward Funeral Home of Geneva, Ala. directing.

Margie was born Oct. 28, 1946 in Enterprise, Ala. to the late Vertice J. and Ollie Ruth Chancy Hickman. She enjoyed serving her community by making her famous BBQ sauce for the Battens Volunteer Fire Department's fundraisers.

Margie was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Wood; one son, Melton Dewayne Wood; and one sister, Rachel Ann Hickman Motley.

Survivors include her son: Jeffery Wood (Christy), Coffee Springs, Ala.; daughter-in-law: Melissa Wood, Elba, Ala.; five grandchildren: Hannah Wood, Jacob Wood, Torie Wood, Lexie Wood, and Logan Stinson; three sisters: Alice McGowan (James), Coffee Springs, Sarah Walls (Gene), Crawfordville, Fla., Annette McIntosh, Tallahassee, Fla.; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones.

### SHAN MARIE HUGHES

Ms. Shan Marie Hughes, age 53, of Opp, Ala., died

Friday morning, July 21, 2023.

No formal services will be observed according to her wishes.

Anyone wishing to honor her may make contributions towards her final expenses. Hayes Funeral Home of Elba is serving the

Hughes family.

Survivors include her daughter: Chelsea Henderson, Troy, Ala.; son: Nicholas (Emily) Walker, Opp; sisters: Joyce Abbott, Samson, Ala., and Virginia (Ronny) Price, Elba; brother: Travis Wheeler, Flora, Ala.; along with seven grandchildren.

### E.H. HILL

Bishop E. H. Hill of Elba died Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 22, 2023, at Cornerstone Church of Jesus Christ, Opp, Ala., with Coleman Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Bishop Hill was born May 6, 1947, near Danley Cross Road (Five Point) community in Elba to the late Gladys Hill and Ezekiel Hill. He retired from Dorsey Trailers after working 33 years.

In 1979 he became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Enterprise Ala. After serving many years as a Deacon, he was ordained as Minister E. H.

Hill. In 2011 he became the presiding Bishop of The True Apostolic Churches of Jesus Christ Incorporated of Rochester NY, while still pastoring his local church in Elba.

He was very proud of the establishment of Cornerstone Church of Jesus Christ, in Opp, Ala.

Bishop Hill was pre-

cceeded in death by his parents, Gladys Stoudemire Hill and Ezekiel Hill; one brother; A.C. Hill; two sisters, Hattie Hill, Evangelist Mary Coleman; one son, Willie Hill; and one grandson, Biricus Malando Hill.

Survivors include his wife: Norma Ball; three sons: Travis Simmons, Princeton Ball, and Braxton Ball; loving mother: Mary Joice Snell; four brothers: Neverly (Tonya), Chris, Marlo (Nicole), Des (Tracey); two sisters: Vega (Katori), Faith (Fred); loving aunt: Mary Riddle; two grandchildren: Kingston and Sydelle; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Willie Stefan Ball was born November 27, 1961 to the late Willie Sonny Snell and Mary Joice Snell in Enterprise. He attended and graduated from Enterprise High School going right into the Army Reserves.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willie Snell; grandparents, James and Mary Baw; uncle, James A. Baw; and his brother, Samuel L. Snell.

Survivors include his wife: Norma Ball; three sons: Travis Simmons, Princeton Ball, and Braxton Ball; loving mother: Mary Joice Snell; four brothers: Neverly (Tonya), Chris, Marlo (Nicole), Des (Tracey); two sisters: Vega (Katori), Faith (Fred); loving aunt: Mary Riddle; two grandchildren: Kingston and Sydelle; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

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Survivors include his wife: Norma Ball; three sons: Travis Simmons, Princeton Ball, and Braxton Ball; loving mother: Mary Joice Snell; four brothers: Neverly (Tonya), Chris, Marlo (Nicole), Des (Tracey); two sisters: Vega (Katori), Faith (Fred); loving aunt: Mary Riddle; two grandchildren: Kingston and Sydelle; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

by Paul Jackson, Pastor

Covenant Community Church

### You just might learn a new thing or two!

Have you ever noticed that everyone uses the Bible to prove their point of view, and that often two people can use the same Bible to prove two very opposite views?

Now, don't jump on me just yet...I'm NOT casting doubt on the Bible. I believe the Bible is God's inspired Word to us, our only rule for faith and practice. In fact, I'm prone to ask those who want to reject the Bible as a reliable guide for us this question: "If you don't have the Bible, what do you have?"

I am, however, calling attention to the strong possibility that those of us who believe in the Bible, interpret the Bible, and use the Bible to prove some point of doctrine, may be wrong about a belief we hold. Why it's even possible to use the Bible wrongly, and in doing so, wind up believing and arguing for something that may not be the truth. Or the whole truth.

So, we need to be careful. Context is important. Understanding the grand theme of biblical literature is important. And humility is important as we come the Bible. The reality is that all of us tend to see what we are taught to see and go blind quickly when talking about something we hold sacred.

Some years ago, I was being interviewed for a staff position in a fairly good size church in the Midwest. I made it through the selection committee and had one more hurdle: the Senior Pastor. After some niceties, the Senior Pastor immediately launched into something that was of great importance to him.

"I've been studying this," he said, "and I am convinced that premillennialism is the correct view of end time events. Do you agree with that?"

"Uh oh!" I thought to myself. I didn't think evading such a direct question would work, so I jumped in with both feet.

"Well," I said, "There's a lot of people who read the Bible and believe the Bible as strongly as you do, and they have reached a different conclusion. I don't know who is right. But I do know that everyone can't be right. Someone must be wrong. And, sir, it could be you." Personally, I think all sides of that issue could be wrong."

Needless to say, that was the end of that interview!

One of the most interesting and least taught passages in the New Testament is Mark 9:38-41.

"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

Pretty arrogant of John, don't you think? Sectarian to the core. Perhaps John felt threatened and so told him to stop what he was doing. Perhaps John, at this early point in Jesus' ministry, "had studied" the issue of casting out demons and was convinced of his stance on the matter.

But notice Jesus' response; it may surprise you. He said, "Do not stop him. No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us" (vs. 39). Interesting perspective. Jesus goes on to point out that John didn't need to be so concerned about what he had seen. Heaven notices even when someone gives a cup of cold water in Jesus' name. That person, Jesus says, "will certainly not lose his reward" (vs. 41).

Here's a suggestion: If Jesus can welcome and affirm someone doing a good work in his name, even though he's not a part of the Jesus group, perhaps we could do the same for other believers even though they aren't part of our little group. After all, aren't we all on the same side?

Remember: Human understanding is imperfect at best, often clouded with suspicion, wrong motives, and even pride (see 1 Cor. 13:12). That's why it is best to remain teachable and open to the possibility of God's surprising perspectives.

You just might learn a new thing or two in the process.

### IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN

### COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Paul Jackson, Pastor

Sunday Fellowship . . . 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship . . . 10:00 a.m.

Wed. Night "Peak of the Week & meal . . . 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study & Prayer . . . 6:15 p.m.

until 7:00 p.m.

### DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH

Steve Watson, Pastor

Sunday School . . . 9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship . . . 6:00 p.m.

Wed Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

### DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School . . . 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 11:00 a.m.

Discipleship Training 5:00 p.m.

Even. Worship . . . 6:00 p.m.

Wed Prayer Meet . . . 7:00 p.m.

### ELANON BAPTIST CHURCH

Mark Ward, Pastor

Sunday School . . . 10:30 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 11:00 a.m.

Even. Service . . . 5:00 p.m.

Wed. Bible Study . . . 6:15 p.m.

### ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Philip Box, Minister

Bible Study . . . 9:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 10:00 a.m.

Even. Service . . . 5:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

### BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Greg Cotter, Pastor

Sunday School . . . 9:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 10:00 a.m.

Disciple Train . . . 5:30 p.m.

Even. Worship . . . 6:30 p.m.

### BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School . . . 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship . . . 6:00 p.m.

Wed Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

### BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH

Robert Davis, Pastor

Sunday School . . . 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship . . . 11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship . . . 6:00 p.m.

### CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

Remonia Smith, Pastor

Church Service . . . 9:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

Sunday School . . . 9:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Sunday School . . . 10:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

### CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Larry Mills, Pastor

Sunday School . . . 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship . . . 11:00 a.m.

Wed. Night . . . 7:00 p.m.

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So, we need to be careful. Context is important.

Understanding the grand theme of biblical literature is

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Kindergarten Jumpstart set for Tuesday morning, Aug. 1, for Coffee County Schools

Kindergarten Jumpstart for Coffee County Schools [Kinston, New Brockton, and Zion Chapel] will be Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at each school.

Kindergarten Jumpstart is a one-day program that allows incoming kindergarten students an orientation opportunity before the beginning of school. The day is three hours in length. During this time the students are exposed to a mini kindergarten schedule, allowed to tour the building, and are introduced to their teacher as well as several other staff members.

**All students and parents are to report to the Coffee County School System trying to identify all persons with disabilities**

The Coffee County School System is in the process of identifying all persons with disabilities, ages 3-21 years, who are not enrolled in an educational setting, and all 0-3-year-old children with disabilities.

If a parent of a child with disabilities or for those who know of someone who is disabled, contact the principal of the local school or the Special Education Coordinator's office at the Coffee County Board of Education at (334) 897-5016.

It is important that all persons with disabilities be identified so appropriate services can be provided.

Additional contact information for the Coffee County School System:

Tami Crosby, Special Services Coordinator, (334) 897-5016

Carolyn Broaden, Federal Programs Coordinator, (334) 897-5016

Megan Driggers, Principal of Kinston School, (334) 565-3016

Hollie Richardson, Principal of New Brockton Elementary School, (334) 894-6152

Bradley Bowers, Principal of New Brockton Middle School, (334) 894-2350

Alonzo Barkley, Principal of New Brockton High School, (334) 894-2350

Jared Robison, Principal of Zion Chapel School, (334) 897-5275

### Troy University recognizes students for completing IMPACT orientation

Troy University recognized new students who completed IMPACT orientation and enrolled in classes for the Fall 2023 semester. Local students who will attend Troy include:

**Elba, Ala.**: Camron Blackmon, Jacob Brunson, Gunnar Burdeshaw, Haley Burke, Sarah Burke, James Chapman, Justin Coleman, Britton Coppage, Trenton Hamilton, Jaden Juarez, Jack, Ala.: Ethan Hodge

### Dothan Moonlighters set to be in concert Aug. 10 at Elba Theatre

The Elba Chamber of Commerce/Elba Main Street in conjunction with the Elba Historic Preservation Committee invites all to enjoy an evening with The Dothan Moonlighters in Elba. The concert will be Thursday, Aug. 10, beginning at 6 p.m. in the historic Elba Theatre, located at 231 Court Ave., Elba.

**"Happy Days Ahead" Mental Health Peer Support Group meets Monday nights at the Rabbit Hole in Elba, Ala.**

The "Happy Days Ahead" Mental Health Peer Support Group meets every Monday night at the Rabbit Hole, 218 Factory Ave., Elba, beginning at 6 p.m.

This is a safe, confidential space to talk, network and grow in recovery.

For more information, contact Rory Vignola on Facebook.

**READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

**NEWS**

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14  
fewer reasons  
to worry**

**Stay current  
on COVID, Flu  
& Childhood  
Vaccinations**

**Visit alabamaunites.com  
to locate a vaccine**

ALABAMA  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH

### You're Invited!

Coffee County Schools will hold a "Grand Opening" for the new New Brockton Middle School building Thursday, Aug. 3, at 6 p.m.

A ribbon cutting for the new building will be held immediately following the Coffee County Board of Education meeting, which will be held from the New Brockton High School auditorium at 5:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served after the ribbon cutting.

### Annual Jack Day Car Show set for Saturday, Sept. 16th, at ZC School

Mark those calendars!

The 6th annual Jack Day Car Show, in conjunction with the 20th annual Jack Day Community Festival, will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The events are sponsored by Altrusa International of Jack, Alabama.

The car show will be located on the practice field

for Zion Chapel School. There is a \$25 entry fee. Door prizes and awards will be given away.

For more information, contact Jerry Senn at (334) 464-0030 or Britley Parker at (334) 300-6974.

**Shop ELBA!**

### PUBLIC RELEASE

Coffee County Schools today announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Coffee County Schools offer healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00, lunch costs \$2.25. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

#### 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from Alabama SNAP, the Food Distribution Program, or Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Alabama TANF are eligible for free meals.
- All children in households receiving benefits from Medicaid are eligible for free or reduced meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children who are directly certified are eligible to receive free meals.
- When known to **Coffee County Schools**, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals based on their participation (or a household member's participation) in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.
- When known to **Coffee County Schools**, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals based on the individual child's designation as Other Source Categorically Eligible, as defined by law. Children are determined Other Source Categorically Eligible if they are: Homeless, Migrant, Runaway, A foster child, or Enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program (see: SP 40-2013: Q&As Regarding the Participation of Head Start Programs in Child Nutrition Programs, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/qas-regarding-participation-head-start-programs-child-nutrition-programs-0>).

#### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2023-2024

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ELIGIBILITY SCALE FOR FREE MEALS/MILK			HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ELIGIBILITY SCALE FOR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS/MILK			
	PER YEAR	PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS		PER YEAR	PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	PER WEEK
1	18,954	1,580	729	365	1	26,973	2,248	1,038
2	25,636	2,137	986	493	2	36,482	3,041	1,404
3	32,318	2,694	1,243	622	3	45,991	3,833	1,769
4	39,000	3,250	1,500	750	4	55,500	4,625	2,135
5	45,682	3,807	1,757	879	5	65,009	5,418	2,501
6	52,364	4,364	2,014	1,007	6	74,518	6,210	2,867
7	59,046	4,921	2,271	1,136	7	84,027	7,003	3,232
8	65,728	5,478	2,528	1,264	8	93,536	7,795	3,598

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER

ADD +6,682      +557      +257      +129      ADD +9,509      +793      +366      +183

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail your child(ren)'s school.

3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to your child(ren)'s school.

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact your child(ren)'s school immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE?

Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit our web site to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Betsy Wood at (334) 897-5016 if you have any questions about the online application.

No, an online application is not available at this time.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **September 18, 2023**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.

8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. In accordance with program regulations school officials will be verifying the income of some households at some time during the school year. Selected households will be requested to provide income documentation in order to continue receiving free and reduced-price meals.

9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Kelly Cobb, 400 Reddoch Hill Road, Elba, Alabama 36323, (334) 897-5016, cobbk@coffeecounty.k12.al.us**.

11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.

12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

14. DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER? Only the last 4 digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required.

15. MAY I DECLINE BENEFITS? Yes. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact Betsy Wood or school if they choose to decline the free meal benefits.

16. WHAT IF ALL CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS ARE NOT ON THE NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY LETTER? If children or households receive benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs and are not listed on the notice of eligibility and are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact the school or should submit an income application.

17. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

18. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact your child(ren)'s school to receive a second application.

19. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Alabama SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call Alabama hotline number - 800-382-0499.

If you have other questions or need help, call (334) 897-5016.

Sincerely, Betsy Wood

#### USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity\* and sexual orientation\*), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form) from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

\* The enclosed "nondiscrimination" language herein was added pursuant to the May 5, 2022, USDA memorandum. However, although included as currently required for audit compliance by the USDA, the State of Alabama objects to its inclusion, applicability and the application of this language due to currently pending legal challenges in the matter of THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, ET AL. V. USDA, ET AL., Case No. 3:22-cv-00

## CLASSIFIEDS

### The Elba Clipper

P.O. Box 677 Elba, AL 36323

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AD  
CALL 334-897-2823  
FAX 334-897-3434  
e-mail clipper@troycable.net

#### DEADLINE

The deadline for placing a classified or other advertisement is noon on Tuesday of the week in which the ad is to appear.

#### COST

**\$500** per week (first 15 words)

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#### IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

Elba Division

/s/ Jodee R. Thompson

Jodee R. Thomson

Probate Judge

7-20,27&8-3 pd

#### IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EVA MILLER

Deceased

Case No: PC2023-039

#### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

JAMES TRAVIS SPURLIN

Deceased

Case No: PC2023-040

#### NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION for the Estate of Eva Miller has been filed by Bernard Miller and that said petition is hereby set for hearing on the 22nd day of August, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock a.m. Any person having any objection to the issuance of Letters of Administration for said Estate make the same known in writing filed with this Court on or before the day and time of said hearing.

Done this the 12th day of July, 2023.

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed in the Probate Court of Coffee County - Elba Division on the 14th day of July, 2023, for distribution of assets from the Estate of James Travis Spurlin, deceased, and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof, and pursuant to law, the Court

shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the Estate of said decedent.

Witness my hand and seal this the 18th day of July, 2023

/s/ Jodee R. Thompson

Jodee R. Thomson

JUDGE OF PROBATE

7-20,27&8-3 pd

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Carlson Environmental Consultants, PC of 1127 Curtis Street, Suite 100, Monroe, NC 28112 has completed all work on the Coffee County Landfill Gas Expansion Phase IV at 7733 AL-125, Elba, AL 36323. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above-named Contractor and the Engineer, CDG, Inc. of 1840 East Three Notch Street, Andalusia, AL 36421.

7/27, 8/3, 10&17-pd.

## Elba Rotary Club looking to 'revamp' Tiger Town Park playground for 20th anniversary

by Mikailie Caulder,  
Auburn University Living Democracy Program student

In the small town of Elba, Tiger Town Park is the community's beating heart. Two decades ago, the community witnessed the transformative and uniting power of self-investment.

Now, Elba stands on the horizon of a new chapter of community sustainment and elevation. Steve Reneau, president of the Rotary Club, explained, "We saw 20 years ago, Elba invest in itself and its future. I think this is an opportunity for Elba to do that again."

For the 20th anniversary of Tiger Town playground in 2026, the rotary club wants to revamp the space.

"The playground is something that Rotary keeps on its mind every year, it's an ongoing project for our club" Reneau stated.

The space serves as more than just a playground, it is a space of unity for Elba. Tiger Town Playground provides "common areas for people of diverse backgrounds in Elba to come together. The children are granted the opportunity to come together and play which they may not have had before," Reneau explained.

"For a lot of people in Elba, it doesn't just represent a good playground. It symbolizes the impact of the community coming together to pull it off," he added.

Funding the project is a key aspect of its success. The Rotary Club plans to utilize a three-pronged approach involving commercial organizations, personal contributions, and grant opportunities.

The second prong of personal contributions will generate excitement and investment into the effort. Fundraising with handprints, fence posts, and tiger paws allows the community to be directly involved in creating the space.

Funds for the project will secure the necessary resources to extend the playground's accessibility and ensure its sustainability. While the immediate focus is refurbishing and enhancing the existing playground, rotary understands the importance of continuous development.

The major goal is to do the 20th anniversary well so the 25th and 30th anniversaries can happen. We can refurbish a little more or add another component to keep the playground as a living public space," Reneau added.

"People whose handprints are up there want the opportunity to put their children's handprints up as well," Reneau added.

As individuals engage in the construction process, a sense of ownership and connection creates an

impact on the personal level.

"People can remember parts they painted and installed," Reneau explained.

Pelham, as president-elect will take over the presidential role in the coming weeks. With this shift, she hopes to keep the momentum going for the playground project.

"I joined Rotary because I knew they had the playground initiative," she recounts.

Realizing it was through this initiative that she could make a lasting impact on the lives of everyone in her hometown.

The playground project is going to require help from everyone in the community.

Pelham realizes the scope of the project saying, "It's us leading this effort with everyone's help, we acknowledge that we cannot do this alone."

During the initial build of the playground, community members gathered together to see the project to the end. Helping wherever possible, people who didn't know each other previously became really close.

"I've heard a lot of stories of people meeting new people while down there building the playground," Reneau recounts. The construction created a sanctuary for flourishing new connections, which will hopefully occur once again in the refurbishing process.

The journey of refurbishing Tiger Town Playground represents more than just a physical transformation. It embodies the spirit of Elba, a community investing in its future.



The Elba Rotary Club's Courtney Pelham is shown standing in front of Tiger Town Park in downtown Elba. For the 20th anniversary of Tiger Town playground in 2026, the rotary club wants to revamp the space.

Reneau describes.

Courtney Pelham, the president-elect, explains,

"We want it to sustain. It's as much about growing Elba as it is preserving what we already have for years to come."

Reneau explains plans for the future to be "refurbishing what we've had, adding an accessibility component, and adding a multigenerational family component as well."

A multigenerational component will promote the interest of children and adults alike.

"The idea is to take something only geared towards children and upgrade it to a multigenerational area that everyone can use," Reneau explained.

Pelham added, "We do have a comprehensive report from the company that does the overseeing of maintenance for wear and tear on the playground.

We know that we can't do everything so we're prioritizing bit by bit what will make the most sense in terms of dollars and effectiveness."

Pelham stated, "It's an exciting opportunity too for people who helped participate as a child who now have their own children."

The echoes of past success linger in the air, reminding residents of their potential to create a thriving community space.

"People whose handprints are up there want the opportunity to put their children's handprints up as well," Reneau added.

As individuals engage in the construction process, a sense of ownership and connection creates an

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## SPORTS NEWS

### Views From The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

**Our grandson Lawson and his Mom accompanied us** on a weekend getaway last week to the north Alabama mountains, and while I will admit a trip to the mountains is always nice, we stopped at Dismal Canyon on the way back and he was the only one that managed the mile and a half hike through the gorge, climbing over and under million-year-old rock formations and wading through creeks without the need for a rest. The sites on the hike were amazing, but none more than the chairs at the gift shop after the hike.

#### For what it is worth....

\*\*\* As the high school football season nears it is time to take a more in-depth look at the teams in Class 1A, Region 2. The top four teams in the region standings (Elba, Brantley, Georgiana and Flora) combined for an outstanding 35-12 record last season, while the remaining five teams in the region did not enjoy as much success as (Red Level, Kinston, Houston County, McKenzie and Pleasant Home) posted a combined record of 13-36. One interesting fact is that of the nine teams in the region, seven dropped down from the 2A ranks during their years on the gridiron, with only McKenzie and Pleasant Home being 'lifelong' residents of the 1A ranks.

Moving over to the coaches of the region teams, the tenure of the head coaches hasn't been that long with Red Level's Kenny Skipper being the dean of the region coaches as he enters his seventh year with the Tigers, followed by Brantley's Roland Jones, in his sixth year with the Bulldogs, and Rudy Free, who will be in his fifth year at Kinston as the leader of the Bulldogs.

\*\*\* The popular website AL.COM recently listed the 'Top 10' highest paid NFL players from Alabama high schools and colleges, and while it brought out the fact former Crimson Tide quarterback Jalen Hurts recently signed a five-year, \$255 million contract extension with the Philadelphia Eagles, it also made it clear the multi-million contract didn't even get Hurts close to the top ten! The state's top paid NFL player was former San Diego/Los Angeles Charger quarterback Phillip Rivers, from Athens, who pulled in a cool \$243.9 million during his career that included eight Pro Bowl picks, followed far behind in second by Foley's Julio Jones, a wide receiver who has so far played for Atlanta, Tennessee and Tampa Bay, and who has made \$148.1 million in a career in which he has been chosen for seven Pro Bowl appearances. Former Auburn University quarterback Cam Newton was a mild surprise in third with earnings of over \$133.5 million, but not nearly as surprising as the #10 pick – Jackrabbit Jenkins, from the University of North Alabama, who has pulled in over \$74.9 million in a career that has seen the one-time Pro Bowl cornerback dress out for St. Louis, New York Giants, Tennessee and San Francisco.

\*\*\* The University of Alabama has announced that all season ticket packages as well as four of the Crimson Tide's home games are sold out. The sold out home games include Texas, along with SEC matchups against Ole Miss, Tennessee and LSU. Fans wanting to watch the Tide can still buy tickets to home games against Middle Tennessee State, Arkansas and Chattanooga, but those hoping to find tickets to one of the sellouts may have to take out a loan since ticket brokers are selling tickets to the Texas game for between \$250-\$800, Ole Miss tickets range from \$108 to \$412, Tennessee tickets can be found for the price of \$200 to \$700, and LSU tickets will run you between \$166-\$700. Bama fans are used to making long trips to watch their team play. So, I guess the steep prices won't scare away the true Tide fanatics.

\*\*\* In closing.... No coach in the state was more deserving of 'Coach of the Year' honors last week at the annual AHSAA summer meetings than Elba Tiger golf coach Mark Wicker. The long time Elba coach took over the reins of the golf program several years ago after years of serving on staff in football and basketball, and over the last three years has led his team to a pair of state championships and a state runner-up finish. Coach Wicker has recruited the students at Elba High to give golf a try, and has even started a girl's program to get even more students involved in extra-curricular activities. While last week's honor was in the sport of golf and was well deserved, the plaque should have simply read 'Coach of the Year,' because Coach Mark Wicker is a coach for all sports and all students at Elba High.

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#### In Class 2A football

### Region 2 filled with haves and have nots

#### Class 2A, Region 2

	2022 Record	Region Record	Playoffs
Elba	11-1	8-0	1-1
Brantley	10-3	7-1	2-1
Georgiana	7-4	5-3	0-1
Flora	7-4	5-3	0-1
Red Level	4-6	4-4	*
Kinston	4-6	3-5	*
Houston Co.	2-8	2-6	*
McKenzie	1-8	1-7	*
Pleasant Home	2-8	1-7	*

While it is true Class 2A, Region 2 may not be among the strongest regions across the state, it is a balanced nine-team region that includes five teams that have claimed region crowns and seven teams that made the move down from the 2A ranks.

The Elba Tigers will enter their second straight season in the 1A ranks in their latest change in classification, and in their four years in 1A, the Tigers have posted a combined record of 20-3, with one region title. Prior to the drop, Elba was a 2A power for 12 years beginning in 2008.

The Brantley Bulldogs will kick off their 28th season in Class 1A since moving down from 2A in 1996, and boast a total of 19 region titles and an amazing 151-11 region record.

The Georgiana Panthers will enter their 16th season in the 1A ranks since moving down from 2A in 2008, own four region crowns and have a combined region record of 57-47.

The Flora Wildcats will

be in their 26th year in 1A circles since moving down from Class 2A in 1997, own one region crown and have a combined region record of 65-100.

The Red Level Tigers will enter their 12th straight season in the 1A ranks since making the move down from Class 2A in 2012, have a combined record of 16-60 and have yet to claim a region title.

The Kinston Bulldogs

will be in their 25 season in the 1A ranks since the move down in 2000, have yet to bring home a region crown and own a combined region record of 68-100.

The Houston County Lions will be back in the 1A ranks for just the second year since moving down in 2022, have yet to claim a region crown and own a combined region record of 2-6.

The McKenzie Tigers

will be competing in the 1A ranks for the 59th consecutive year since 1963 and have claimed 10 region crowns and boast a 122-114 combined region record.

The Pleasant Home Eagles will be in the 1A ranks for the 23rd straight season since starting football back in 2000, have yet to claim a region title and have a combined region record of 51-106.

#### Red Level coach Skipper is 'dean of coaches' in region

The Class 2A, Region 2 coaching roster includes a mixture of veteran coaches and new coaches with Red Level's Kenny Skipper, Brantley's Roland Jones and Kinston's Rudy Free being the dean of coaches in the nine-team region.

Kenny Skipper will begin his seventh year as the head man at Red Level and has led the Tigers to a combined record of 16-42.

Roland Jones will be in his sixth season at Brantley and owns a 53-11 record with the Bulldogs with three region titles. Prior to taking the helm at Brantley, Coach Jones was the head coach at Crenshaw Christian Academy for ten years, where his teams posted a combined record of 83-30 and brought home six region crowns.

Rudy Free will be in his fifth season at Kinston and has led the Bulldogs to a combined record of 17-24. His first head coaching stop was at Ariton, where in three years his teams posted a 7-23 combined record.

Marc Sieving will enter his fourth season at Elba and has led the Tigers to a combined record of 27-7, and led the Tigers to a region title in both 1A and 2A.

Berry Bess will enter his third season as head coach

at Georgiana and has led the Panthers to a combined record of 7-14.

Jordan Cantrell will back for his second season as the head coach at Flora and last season led the Wildcats to a 7-4 record. Prior to taking over at Flora, Cantrell was the head coach at Elmore County for four years, where his teams posted a 10-30 record, and was the head coach at West Limestone for four years, where his teams posted a record of 25-20.

Cody Sellers will be in his second season as the head coach at Pleasant Home and in his first year at the helm led the Eagles to a 2-8 record. Prior to coming to Pleasant Home, Coach Sellers was the head coach at Excel for three years and led his teams to a 9-20 record.

Jake Allen will be back at Houston County for the second straight season, and his first season with the Lions led the team to a 2-8 record.

Brian Bradford will be in his first season at the head coach at McKenzie. Coach Bradford has been the head coach at Elmore County for six years, where his teams posted a 34-31 record, and also at Chilton County, where his teams posted a record of 9-21 in three seasons.

#### Pea River in advisory to anglers to not eat fish

Alabama has over 129,700 miles of rivers and streams, 41 public lakes and reservoirs.

Unfortunately, certain toxic chemicals have been found in some lakes and rivers in Alabama. Some of these chemicals can accumulate in fish. With some of the chemicals, higher levels of the contaminants can be found in older and/or larger fish.

Sampling of fish provides the information (levels of contaminants) needed for issuing the advisories.

Included in the advisory is a stretch of the Pea River, where the Pea River and Beaverdam Creek meet, in Elba.

Local areas of concern include the following:

(Geneva County) Largemouth bass Spotted Bass Do Not Eat Any (Mercury) Redear sunfish 2 meals/month (Mercury) Conecuh River At AL/FL state line.



**COACH OF THE YEAR** – Elba High golf coach Mark Wicker was named the Alabama High School 'Golf Coach of the Year' last week during the annual awards banquet at the 2023 All-Star Sports Week festivities at Montgomery. The award was presented by the National Federation of High Schools by AHSAA officials. Coach Wicker led the Elba Tigers to back-to-back state 1A-2A state championships in 2021 and 2022, as well as a runner-up finish in 2023.

#### Sportsmanship recognized

The AHSAA Summer Conference concluded last week with the Athletic Directors and Principals meeting and the mandatory Medical Advisory meeting.

The eighth annual Star Sportsmanship breakfast was a major highlight of the day, recognizing 82 high schools that were ejection and sportsmanship fine free for the 2022-23 school year.

The annual \$1,000 Sportsmanship grant, which was provided by the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association (AHSADCA), was awarded to 10 of the schools, one from each district and two from districts 4 and 8, in a show of support for the AHSAA's sportsmanship initiatives.

This year's total of 82 high schools is up 15 from last year's 65 schools that reached this goal. Class 1A led the way this year with 22 schools. Class 2A had 19; Class 5A had 15; Classes 2A and 3A had 10 each; Class 6A had 6; and Class 7A had none.

The AHSAA has seen 409 of its member high schools reach the Sportsmanship status of no fines or ejections 1,613 combined years since the inception of the program.

Sixteen high schools earning the Sportsmanship Award this year were also among the 93 that received the Sportsmanship Banner in 2007-08 – the first year of the program.

Middle and junior high schools have been tracked for the last three years with schools reaching that goal 739 times – an average of 246 schools per year.

Since the inception of the Sportsmanship School recognition, \$1,000 grants have been awarded to selected schools achieving that status in each district since 2008 – bringing the total amount awarded to \$122,000.

Area schools included on the list included Georgiana, McKenzie, Ariton, Goshen, G.W. Long, Pike Liberal Arts, Providence Christian and Headland.

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## LIFESTYLES

### Coffee County Commission recognizes Elba High School's FCCLA program

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During the Coffee County Commission meeting held Monday morning, July 24, in New Brockton, Elba High School FCCLA students were recognized for their recent achievements, which included two first place wins and all gold medals at the National FCCLA Convention STARS events.

The county commission presented a resolution to the program recognizing the outstanding achievements of the students, and afterwards, the two first place national winners presented their programs for commissioners to see firsthand. This included Keelie Moseley with her Teach or Train presentation, and the group of Mary Brooklyn O'Neal, Shaylee Johnson and Payton Parks with their Repurpose and Redesign presentation.

The county commission presented a resolution to the program recognizing the outstanding achievements of the students, and afterwards, the two first place national winners presented their programs for commissioners to see firsthand. This included Keelie Moseley with her Teach or Train presentation, and the group of Mary Brooklyn O'Neal, Shaylee Johnson and Payton Parks with their Repurpose and Redesign presentation.

After the presentations were completed, commissioners and other county departmental leaders noted how impressed they were

with these students.

Elba High FCCLA advisor Christina Morgan said Keelie Moseley competed in Level II at nationals as a ninth grader, and the group of O'Neal, Johnson and Parks competed in Level I as 7th or 8th graders. Moseley made a perfect 100 on her presentation in earning her first place win.

The Repurpose and Redesign presentation resonated with Coffee County Environmental Services director Mike Thornton.

"Very impressive," he said to the group. "I have seen presentations in the military and throughout my career and some were not nearly as professionally done. I would have never guessed some of you were seventh graders."

Since the Repurpose and Redesign presentation touched on keeping products out of landfills and protecting the environment, Thornton told the young ladies that progressing through the field could be a career for them, especially on the environmental side.



The Elba FCCLA students that recently competed in the national STARS events at the FCCLA National Convention held in Denver, Colorado were recognized Monday morning, Aug. 24, at the Coffee County Commission meeting. Above, Commission chairman Dean Smith presents the young ladies with a resolution from the county congratulating the Elba High School program on its successes at the local, state and national levels. Eight of the students competed in national STAR events and all received gold medals with Elba bringing home two first places finishes from nationals. Also, Elba was represented at nationals by Zalie McKelvy - she currently is the state FCCLA president. The students pictured above with Smith are (from left) Shaylee Johnson, Payton Parks, Mary-Brooklyn O'Neal, Taylor Day, Kayden Moseley, Hillary Hudson, Zalie McKelvy, Adalyn O'Neal, and Keelie Moseley.

"I was very impressed... I see presentations on the national level from people

with doctorates that can't do it as well as you all did," he added. "Very impressive. My hats off to you all."

Several of the commissioners shared similar thoughts after hearing the national-winning presentations.

Commissioner Tom Grimsley said, "What a great group [of students] and you did a great job. It is easy to realize their parents and teachers are supporting them."

Commissioner Sonny Moore even said he would like to invest in the product

created by the Repurpose and Redesign group. He also thanked Christina Morgan for the work she does with the program to make it so successful at Elba High School.

"I want to also thank superintendent [Chris] Moseley and his staff for what they do for the students at Elba," Commissioner Jimmy Jones added. "Elba is always in the top positions in the State of Alabama, and I just want to say 'thank you' to you all."

In other business, during the Commission meeting,

commissioners voted to give county engineer Marty Lentz permission to send out bids for diesel fuel. He said this would be a secondary or back up supplier [other than from the state contract] should the county need it.

Commissioners also gave the environmental services department permission to spend \$48,923 per truck to purchase two new pickup trucks off a bid from Donohoo Chevrolet in Fort Payne, Ala.

The next regular meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, Aug. 14, at 9 a.m. in New Brockton.

#### Military Support Group Meetings in Enterprise:

Enterprise Military Support Group meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Anyone who needs to talk about difficult experiences and needs an understanding friend is invited. Meetings at Church on Boll Weevil Circle, 2017 Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise, Ala.

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This glass mosaic of Vaughan's can be found in the front lobby at Elba High School.

of their own projects. She describes the moment when the scattered glass pieces begin to take shape as a beautiful process.

"To watch it come together is the most fascinating

thing," says Vaughan. "When you first start out, it looks like someone just threw a bunch of glass on it. When it takes shape, you get hit with the reality that you made something beautiful."

Commissioner Sonny Moore even said he would like to invest in the product

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